DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 481 542 EA 032 849

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TITLE	Budgeted Revenues and Expenditures in Public School Systems: Current Status and Trends, Update 2003. A Reference Tool for School Administrators. Research Snapshot.
INSTITUTION	Educational Research Service, Arlington, VA.
ISBN	ISBN-1-931762-28-7
PUB DATE	2003-00-00
NOTE	14p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Educational Research Service, 2000 Clarendon Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201-2908 (Stock no. 0550: nonsubscriber, $30; comprehensive subscriber, $15; individual subscriber, $20). Tel: 703-243-2100; Tel: 800-791-9308 (Toll Free); Fax: 703-243-1985; Fax: 800-791-9309 (Toll Free); e-mail: ers@ers.org; Web site: http://www.ers.org.
PUB TYPE	Information Analyses (070) -- Reports - Research (143)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Budgets; Costs; Educational Finance; Elementary Secondary Education; *Expenditure per Student; Full State Funding; Grants; *Instructional Student Costs; Noninstructional Student Costs; *Public Schools; *Salaries; School District Spending; School District Wealth; School Funds; State Federal Aid; Student Costs; Tax Allocation
IDENTIFIERS	No Child Left Behind Act 2001

ABSTRACT

This research snapshot provides answers to some of the key questions about budgeted revenues and expenditures within U.S. public school systems. The questions are as follows: (1) Why is information about school district budgets important? (2) How are school district budgets generally allocated? (3) To what extent do districts' expenditures vary by community type, per-pupil expenditure level, enrollment size, and geographical regions? (4) How have allocations for instructional services changed over the years? (5) How much of school district budgets is generally set aside for staff salaries and other benefits? (6) Which (and how much) of school district services are generally contracted out? (7) How have the new testing requirements for No Child Left Behind affected school district budgets? (8) What else has shown a measurable impact on school district budgets this year? and (9) On what sources do school districts rely for funds, and how much does each source contribute? To provide answers to these questions, data on budgeted revenues and expenditures, gathered from the Educational Research Service National Survey of School Districts in Public Schools, 2002-03, are presented in this report. (Author)

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